GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
PRIMITIVE TRIBES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
Gao Shri Tapir

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primitive tribes living in Andaman and Nicobar Island as per the latest census; and

(b) the steps taken for the development of the great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentelese and Shompens tribes in the field of health, hygiene, education, housing and bring these five tribes in mainstream of human civilization?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) The Census figures of 2001 for Primitive Tribes have not yet been published. As per 1991 Census, the population of 5 Primitive Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, namely Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onge, Sentinelese & Shompen is 32, 89, 101, 24 and 131 respectively.

(b) The Sentinelese tribe continues to profess hostility towards all the outsiders and remain isolated on a separate island since time immemorial. The Jarawas & Shompen are nomadic hunters and gatherers. The areas inhabited by them have been declared as Tribal Reserve. Since, they are nomadic, no permanent housing at one place has been felt necessary for them as yet. The health care facility for the Jarawas has been provided in the Primary Health Centres at Kadamtala, Tusnabad and Port Blair. Health care facility for Shompens has been provided at Primary Health Centre, Campbell Bay. The Great Andamanese and Onges have been settled at Strait Islands and Dugong Greek in Little Andaman and have been provided with the free houses, free medical coverage, primary school, electricity, free ration, drinking water etc.